

VZCZCXRO0055
PP RUEHAG RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHLH RUEHNEH RUEHPW RUEHROV RUEHSL
RUEHSR
DE RUEHAH #1370 2991403
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 261403Z OCT 09
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3654
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5811
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3519
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3381
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4053
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 4024

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 001370

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN; STATE FOR MED

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/26/2019

TAGS: [SOCI](#) [PGOV](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: FLU SPREADING TO ADULTS

REF: ASHGABAT 1352

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Sylvia Reed Curran. Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

11. (C) The flu that was affecting mostly children throughout Turkmenistan the week of October 19-23 (reftel) has spread to adults as well, as of October 26. Local employees at Post report that large numbers of people (some reports say as many as 50%) in Dashoguz province in northern Turkmenistan are sick. They also are saying that some soldiers are sick. MFA contacts have told us that they are ill and have high fevers, but have no choice but to come to work.

12. (C) Post Medical Officer said that members of three Embassy families are sick with symptoms that are consistent with H1N1, including high fevers and dehydration. One child had a fever of 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Post has canceled Halloween parties to avoid spreading the illness, and recommended that Embassy staff stay away from large crowds. The Consular section sent a warden message to American citizens with similar warnings to stay away from large crowds, stay home if feeling at all unwell, and to wash hands frequently.

13. (C) COMMENT: People from all five provinces in Turkmenistan are converging on the capital to participate in the Independence Day events from October 26-28, bringing with them the various strains of colds and flu that are in their hometowns. The only saving grace is that schools are closed this week, including the Ashgabat International School, where most Embassy children attend. Post is participating in the Department surveillance testing program, but results from those tests will not be returned for a few weeks. END COMMENT.
CURRAN